

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A biaxially[[]]_oriented polyester container formed by a double-stage orientation blow molding method, wherein when an X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in and near a bottom center area of said biaxially[[]]_oriented polyester container, a peak indicative of molecular orientation is observed near a diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° and an orientation parameter (BO) expressed by the following formula (1) is in the range of $0.5 \leq BO \leq 2$ in and near the bottom center area:

$$\text{orientation parameter (BO)} = I_x / I_y \quad (1)$$

[[(where)]] wherein I_x indicates a diffraction intensity near the diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° when the X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in the X-direction, and I_y indicates a diffraction intensity near the diffraction angle of $2\theta = 15$ to 30° when the X-ray diffraction measurement is performed in a direction orthogonal to that for I_x [[]].

2. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a biaxially[[]]_oriented polyester container defined in Claim 1, the method comprising the steps of performing primary orientation blow molding of a preform made of a polyester resin to obtain a primary molded product larger than a final molded product, heat-shrinking said primary molded product into a secondary molded product, and performing secondary orientation blow molding of said secondary molded product to obtain the final molded product, wherein in the step of blow[[-]]_molding a bottom part of said primary molded product, the primary orientation blow molding is performed with [[a]] the bottom part of said preform released from a restrained state.